P 3h.E

App. F. IX-4

1944-45 VP. File No. 74-44

Previous References.
Lb. 26-26-39, 16, 150, 153, 457 (VP.) Serial Nos. 1
VP. 97-29-1, 2.
Legis 53-25-1, 2

Later References.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. one

Part B for July 45

SUBJECT

Conferring Enhanced Powers on Village Panchayets for the efficient Supervision of the work relating to Rural Development

The Rev. Comm.r
" Dy. Comm.rs of Districts
" Comptroller to Govt
" Heads of Depts.
" Secretaries to Govt
" Secy Economic Conference
" Spl. Officer for R.D.
" Secy. C.A.C. for R.D.

L. 11486-520 dt. 28/8/45

Sanctioned the

181 14/7

Enhanced powers of the Village Panchayats

C. F. 601

Continuation Sheet No. 1

File No. / Current No. 6452/L of Page.

Reference: Dewan's minute thereon to draft a G.O. on the lines suggested.

Subject:- Enhanced powers of Village Panchayats & extending the scope of their activities

1) The Draft G.O. is put up for approval or other orders

2) The provision made in the Draft G.O. for the appointment of Gramadevatakas by the Elected Chairmen of Each hobli would necessarily apply to the remaining set of hobbies. (& possible Vacancies that may arise in future)

3) If approved, mention will be made in the draft G.O that these additional powers except financial powers would apply to the two sets of hobbies where the Special Scheme is in progress & that it is intended that all the hobbies

Enhanced powers of the Village Panchayats

Continuation Sheet. File No. Current No. of Page.

will gradually come within the purview of this order.

4) In regard to the powers of Management of Taluk Panchayats, Schools, Minor Irrigation Works and the ~~Union~~ Village Forests, Concerned departmental heads will be requested to suggest rules that may be prescribed under the appropriate Acts.

5) Detailed instructions will issue separately about the composition & strength of the Taluk Advisory Committees contemplated under the G.O.

6) Whether the District Panchayat officers & Economic Superintendents have to be of the status of Asst Commrs or only Amildars is for orders. I have suggested that they should be Asst Commrs with experience of revenue work & who have the necessary outlook for development work. Previous experience has shown that Dt Economic Superintendents who were only Amildars could not

Enhanced Powers of the Village Panchayat

do much. When dealing with Amildars of Taluks. In this view, it would be useful if Senior officers of the Civil Service are posted for this work. Selection may perhaps be made from among Competent Sub Divisional officers and men of proved ability.

Sd/-
4/4/45
Minister L.S.G. & P.H.

&

D'Ewan.

1) The Secy could please bring up as 1-30 ~~p.m.~~

Sd/-
5.4.45

2) The file was submitted to the Minister in person & his directions recieved.

3) Slight alterations in paragraphs 5, 7, & 11 will be made as indicated in the margin.

Sd/-
Minister L.S.G. & P.H.

D'Ewan.

10) Sd/- 6/4/45
7.4.45 Sd/-
7/4

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR L. S. G. & P. H. Date 5.4.45 No. 7845

The Minister was otherwise busy.
Sd/-
5/4

DEWAN'S OFFICE 19 APR. 1945 NO 7090

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR L. S. G. & P. H. Date 6.4.1945 No. 7884

WD 0726—GPB—25,000—15-9-44

Enhanced powers to the Village Panchayats

6452 / L — Continuation Sheet. — VP File No. / Current No. — of 44. — Page

11) The draft G.O may be circulated to the Ministers for opinion

7090

Dsws
14/4/45

Dsws
16/4/

12) The draft Summary is for appl or other orders

Flag M
(Vide orders of the Dewan on the draft G.O. flagged)

Dsws
19/4/45

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR L. S. G. & P. H.
Date 23.4.45
No. 8426

13) I have no objection to the Slight modifications

24.4.45

16/

Circulate

14) Circulated

Min R&D
Min PW
Min T&C

WO 24/4/45

Dsws 26/4/45

WO 24/4/45

from 26/4/45

Submitted with draft D.O. No. 1676-45-1 dt. 26-4-45

15) File given to me by the Dewan. Revised instructions. The draft G.O. may be typed as revised for Submn to Govt

Dsws
14/5/45

16) Please attend at once

17/5/45

C 465

Extract from the Proceedings of the Seventy-first *Meeting of the Council of Ministers held at Bangalore on* Tuesday, 24th April *1945*.

SUBJECT:-

Draft Government Order regarding the grant of enhanced powers to Village Panchayets and arrangements for effective supervision of work relating to the Rural Development Scheme.

OPINION OF THE COUNCIL.

The proposal to give additional powers to the Village Panchayets may be approved.

An officer of the status of an Assistant Commissioner may be given to each District, to help the Deputy Commissioner to organise economic and welfare work in the District, including Village Panchayet administration.

The scheme may be sanctioned for two years.

SD/- N.Madhava Rau,
Dewan of Mysore.

Additional Secretary, with Compts) WO 25/4/45.

S.S.C.S.

"EXTRACT"

Chief Secretary to Government. 25/4

This copies of signed F.N. are put up.
hm 5/5/45

Re Enhanced powers to Village Panchayets

6

C. F. 69]

Continuation Sheet. VP File No. / Current No. of 44 Page.

Flag K

Subtd

19) A clean copy of the draft Govt order incorporating the corrections as put up as directed (vide para 16 supra) - - -

Thms 15.5.45 - - - 20) Additional Secy for 19/5/45

21) Two certified copies of signed Govt. order also put up

Dewan.

Jows 18/5

AN'S OFFICE

MAY 1945

No. 2248

C 451

Subject. -

(The on ani file has been re-submitted to the Minister for L.S.G. & P.H.)

Selection of II Batch of Gramasudharakas for several Taluks in the State.

....

Instructions in Council at a meeting held on 23rd Feby. 1945.

"To be re-circulated with a comprehensive Govt. Order which the Minister, Local Self Govt. and Public Health, has kindly agreed to put up."

(Intd.) V.V.A.
23.2.45.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR L. S. G. & P. H. Date 27.2.45 No. 6593

Minister, L.S.G. & P.H.)

UO 25/2/45

A draft G.O has been put up. The Dewan may kindly peruse it & if in order sign it.

12.3.45.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR L. S. G. & P. H. Date 16.4.45 No. 8226

This has been disposed of in another file

13/4/45

20.4.45

To be placed along with the file relating to

23/4/45

G.O

G.O.No.L.15-64-V.P.23-42-7, dated Camp. Mysore, the 22nd October 1942 according sanction to the introduction of a five-year scheme for Rural Reconstruction Drive in the State.

G.O.No.

selecting first batch of workers for the Rural Reconstruction in selected hoblies.

G.O.No.L.6569-86/V.P.23-42-23 dated 5th January 1943 sanctioning a scheme for the training of workers selected.

G.O.No.11977-97/V.P.23-42-60 dated 9th June 1943 constituting a Central Advisory Board for Rural Reconstruction.

G.O.No.L.4333-70/V.P.29-44-3 dated 3rd November 1944 directing the extension of the scheme to another set of hoblies.

Correspondence ending with letter No.R.D.R1-C.28/44-45 dated 23rd October 1944 from the Special Officer for Rural Development submitting his recommendation regarding the selection of hobli workers for the newly selected hoblies.

G.O.No.

The Rural Drive Scheme was commenced in the year 1942 and full reasons for the initiation of this scheme have been given in the Government Order dated 22nd October 1942. It would be seen from the above Government Order that ~~the~~ one of the chief objects of the scheme was to make the public and the local bodies take increasing and sustained interest in the amelioration of the condition of the rural population thereby enabling them to render practical service by creating in them a sense of responsibility and earnestness for their betterment, the official agency extending all possible assistance in the ~~matt~~ matter of technical advice and Government extending financial assistance in the matter. Workers for the scheme were selected in the Government Order dated and the scheme was put into operation with effect from Considerable financial provision has, from time to time, to supplement the resources of the Village Panchayets been made and no difficulty

has been found in this regard. In all the taluks, the Hobli Advisory Committees have been constituted and it is their primary duty to draw up the programme and watch the progress of work in their jurisdiction. District Advisory Committees have been constituted to review the progress of the District and guide the progress and review the District work. Besides, there is a Central Advisory Board of Rural Development presided over by the Minister in charge to review the progress of the scheme and it has accordingly been working. In all the above bodies, ample scope has been provided for the inclusion of leading non-official gentlemen of experience and influence and helpful suggestions and criticisms have been invited from all parties and individuals irrespective of their political and other bias.

The Scheme, barring a few imperfections which are bound to exist in any scheme of the kind and which could be improved in the light of the experience gained, has been acclaimed to be potential with great possibilities for the betterment of the country side, and some of the other States and the British Provinces are adopting similar schemes suited to their requirements. It is also gathered that ~~the Indian National Congress is~~ outside, Congress or any other political party contemplating to start a nationwide constructive programme of this kind and that they are contemplating to launch a scheme for giving training in the rural upliftment work to a good number of workers. The unique feature of ~~the~~ this scheme is that it provides a comprehensive practical training for selected workers drawn from among those residing in the villages of the locality, in the matter of rural problems and an opportunity for their association with the official agency. Barring a few exceptions on both sides which are inevitable, experience of the working of the scheme for 20 months has shown that the united efforts of the hobli workers and the official agency can certainly break the inertia of the rural masses and

bring a new life into ~~our~~ villages. The progress made under the scheme during the period of its operation has been reviewed by the Special Officer from quarter to quarter and then by the Central Advisory Board for Rural Development. A fortnightly Journal named "Gramabhyudaya" is being published to explain the object of the scheme, the progress of work recorded and is being supplied to Village Panchayets selected free of cost. It is seen from the reviews that the quantum of work actually turned out, though it may not be up to the expectations on the basis of the targets aimed at, is appreciable and of great significance and importance in these times. Every scheme of this kind has to face certain initial difficulties and the Rural Drive Scheme is no exception in this regard. In measuring the progress made under this scheme, this factor has to be taken into account. It has to be realised that, for this scheme in operation, the village improvement work should have suffered a ~~serious~~ set back during these war days and it would have required a great momentum to start such work after the cesation of war conditions. In pursuance of the intention and policy of Government to keep the amelioration of the rural condition foremost in their administration, the scheme was started even under circumstances of great stress created by the war and if not anything else, the scheme has rivetted the attention of the country and the Government on the importance of this subject and has enabled to make initial preparations in the matter.

Above all it has certainly created a psychological background in the villages and there is a general demand for extension of the scheme in their respective areas.

The Scheme had the handicap that it was not possible to have one directing authority as Special Officer from its inception and that the revenue and other officers could not devote sufficient attention to this work as their time and

energies claimed the prior attention of the pressing and emergent problems arising out of the war conditions. Though all sections of the public admitted and appreciated that the scheme was the best to be adopted for the amelioration of the country side, some of them who ~~proposed~~ supported their faith in the constructive work of/this nature did not translate their admiration in the practical execution of the scheme.

However, seeing the earnest participation of the rural-folk in the working of the scheme with the realization that it was meant for their benefit and convinced of the possibilities of the success of the scheme and the need for pushing it rhrough with greater zeal and speed than before. Government sanctioned, in their Government Order dated the extension of the scheme to another set of hoblies and directed the Special Officer to select workers for commencing the work in the new set of hoblies and submit his recommendations for the orders of Government. He has accordingly submitted a list of names for being appointed as gramasudharakas in consultation with the District Committees formed for this purpose and a programme of training extending for a period of four months to be given to the selected candidates before they could actually begin their work in the hoblies for which they are selected. Any scheme of postwar development should have as its primary object, the amelioration of the condition of the rural folk and the work of this nature would enable ~~band of workers~~ the rural folk to be trained and disciplined for any future development activities. The training of ~~band of workers~~ band of workers ~~in a large measure~~ for constructive work is of vital importance. One of the chief objects of ~~our~~ the scheme is to see that local leadership is created and encouraged for taking initiative in any future development and this object could to a great extent be achieved ~~by the band of~~ through workers so trained.

On careful consideration of the recommendations of the Special Officer, Government are therefore pleased to appoint the candidates whose names appear in the list appended hereto, as gramasudharakas and to approve of the scheme of training proposed by him. He is requested to make immediate arrangements to have the training classes started. If any of the gramasudarakas working in the first set of hoblies have not had necessary training, they may also be given training along with this fresh batch.

The Director of Public Instruction is requested to relieve immediately such of the school masters who have been appointed gramasudharakas and to retain their lien in the department.

Law Secretary to Government.

To

The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore,
The Special Officer for Rural Development in Mysore.
The Comptroller to Government through F.D.
The Heads of Departments.

Final Note by the Minister for Local Self-Government and Public Health

Subject.— Draft Government Order regarding the grant of enhanced powers to the Village Panchayets in the State and the arrangements for effective supervision of work relating to the Rural Development Scheme.

---

22) Since the introduction of the Village Panchayet Act in the year 1926, administration of local affairs, especially, communications, conservancy and sanitation of the villages has been entrusted to the villagers themselves. In the year 1936, a scheme for organizing concentrated propaganda was sanctioned with a view to intensify effort in at least some selected villages of each district, so that these villages may eventually serve as examples of good panchayet administration which the less advanced panchayets may be induced to follow. Under this scheme, wherever public spirited non-officials co-operated with the local officers, the progress achieved in village improvement was striking. With a view to achieve more speedy and substantial results in regard to the improvement of village conditions and raise the standard of the Village Panchayet administration generally, a five-year plan of Rural Reconstruction was sanctioned during October 1942. According to this scheme one hobli in each taluk is taken as the unit for purposes of village improvement and 130 trained Gramasudharakas are now working in the selected hoblis. Another set of hoblis has been selected during the current year for intensive work under the scheme and a fresh batch of 127 Gramasudharakas has been recruited and they are undergoing training.

23) The Village Panchayet Act has been in force for 18 years now and various measures have been undertaken by the Government from time to time to develop the organization of these panchayets on sound lines. There has been a great awakening in recent times of non-official interest in the health and welfare of the rural folk, and it is therefore considered necessary to further expand the activities of the Village Panchayets so that they may serve not only as units of local administration but as agencies for promoting all manner of

collective activities social, moral and economic, connected with rural life. It is accordingly proposed to confer as a rule, the privilege of electing their Chairmen to all Village Panchayets except in cases where such a step becomes inexpedient due to local circumstances. The management of village forests and tanks within their ordinary jurisdiction, and of Muzrai Institutions, will be entrusted to begin with, to the local village panchayets of the selected hoblis under the five-year scheme of rural reconstruction. With a view to provide for the expeditious execution of Village Panchayet works, certain restrictions hitherto imposed on the panchayets in respect of the exercise of their financial powers will also be relaxed.

24) A comprehensive Government Order relating to the conferment of enhanced powers etc. on the Village Panchayets was prepared and it was considered at the meeting of the Council of Ministers held on 24th April 1945 when the following resolution was recorded:-

25) " The proposal to give additional powers to the Village Panchayets may be approved. An Officer of the status of an Assistant Commissioner may be given to each District, to help the Deputy Commissioner to organise economic and welfare work in the District, including Village Panchayet administration.

26) The scheme may be sanctioned for two years."

27) I solicit the gracious approval of His Highness to the above resolution of the Council.

28) Separate action will be taken to work out the details of the expenditure involved in giving effect to the scheme outlined in the Government Order.

Bangalore,
5th May 1945.

K. B. Gundappa

M I N I S T E R,
Local Self-Government and Public Health.

Submitted to His Highness

29) I submit herewith a Final Note by the Minister for Local Self-Government and Public Health on the proposals to enhance the powers of Village Panchayets and to make arrangements for the effective supervision of work relating to rural development, for His Highness's gracious sanction.

N. Madhava Rau

Bangalore,
18th May 1945.

DEWAN.

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja.

Subject.

Proposal to enhance the powers of Village Panchayets and to make arrangements for the effective supervision of work relating to rural development.

886

Order.

30) 21/5/'45.

Chief Sec
21/5/45

WP
25/5/45

64 S-2
L

General and Revenue Secretariat.

C85 A

SUBJECT:—

Proposal to enhance the powers of Village Panchayets and to make arrangements for the effective supervision of work relating to rural development.

(*)

14. All urgent or confidential files returned with His Highness' orders may, in the absence of instructions or indications to the contrary, be ordinarily circulated to the Ministers for perusal after the issue of orders.

16. The Secretaries concerned should see that orders in the cases referred to above are issued at once and that the files are returned immediately after, to the Chief Secretary for circulation to the Ministers.

17. In all other cases, the files will first be circulated to the Ministers at Headquarters and then sent to the Secretariat concerned for the issue of orders.

31) Circulated to Council of Ministers for perusal of His Highness' orders before/after issue of orders. (*Vide* Rules 14, 16 and 17 of the Subsidiary Rules of the Mysore Government Business Rules.) (*)

Chief Secretary to Government
25/5/45

32) Through the Secretary to Government,

Addl. ~~Law~~.....Department.

5799/30/5 Minister for Revenue and Law.

8430/30/5 Minister for Public Works and Industries. 3.6.45

The order may come and then circulated 3 days after

Minister for Local Self-Govt. and Public Health. 25.5.45

992/7/6

8372/5-6-45

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies. 5/6

Issued No LII 686-45-20
Resubmitted for circulation

28/5/45 NOTE.—Contn. sheet

~~L.S.G.H.Br~~
Addl. Secy

WD/02270—GBP—500—5-4-45

Draws 28/5/45

8/6/45 7/6/45

Re: Enhanced powers to the Village Panch

C. F. 69] 648-2 L

Continuation Sheet. VP File No. / Current No. of 44 Page.

To

[Print order has been issued to the Supdt Govt printing]

The Rev Comr
The Dy Comrs of Dists
The Comptlr & Govt thro F D
The Heads of Depts
The Secretaries to Govt
The Secy Economic Conference
The Special for Rural Developm
The Secy C.A.C for R. D.

No d 11 & 86-S 20 d 28-5-45.

Confers certain enhanced powers on the Village Panchayats and makes certain arrangements for the efficient Supervision of the work relating to Rural development.

Issued and resubmitted as directed for circulation. (Vide para 33 Supra.)

C. B 29/5 Secy

Kw 28/5/45

B JDR 29/5/45

L 11486-520- VP 74—44—1

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

28/5/1945

12 Copies

R e a d

Government Order No.8508-8557/VP 44-35-2, dated the 9th May 1936 sanctioning a scheme for organising concentrated propaganda in selected villages in the State.

2. Government Order No.L.1564/VP 23-42-7, dated the 22nd October 1942 issuing orders regarding Rural Reconstruction Drive in selected hoblis in the State.

3. Government Order No.D.687-767/EC 2-43-1, dated the 30th July 1943 reviving the scheme of Economic Conference, etc.

4. Government Order No.L.6100-34/VP 63-44-3, dated the 20th December 1944 directing that a District Advisory Committee consisting of the District Officers of the Development Departments and influential non-official gentlemen representing several interests, be constituted in each district for reviewing the progress of work under the Rural Drive Scheme and to eventually function as a District Organisation under the Economic Development Scheme.

5. Government Order No.L.4333-70/VP 22-44-3, dated the 3rd November 1944 directing that the scheme of Rural Drive be introduced into a second set of hoblis in the State.

6. Government Orders introducing the Village Panchayet Act in Mysore with

with amendments thereon from time to time.

-VP-74-44-1

ORDER NO. L-11486-520-

DATED, BANGALORE, THE 28 May 1945.

Under the Mysore Village Panchayet Act, 1926, the Village Panchayets in the State have been given statutory recognition and provision has been made for the administration of local affairs by the villagers themselves. The obligatory duties of Panchayets relate to village communications, conservancy and sanitation. But at the same time, it has been the policy of Government to encourage these bodies to undertake optional measures calculated to promote the convenience and economic welfare of the village communities, subject to their jurisdiction. This policy has assumed greater importance in recent years owing to the progressive increase in expenditure on departments concerned with rural welfare and on subsidies made directly to the Panchayets themselves for several purposes. Government have emphasized the need for an organised and sustained effort by all those departments, whose activities touch the lives and surroundings of the rural population. The Village Panchayets can materially contribute to the success of this effort by active and intelligent co-operation.

2. During the year 1936, Government sanctioned under Government Order No. 8508-8557/VP 44-35-2, dated 9th May 1936, a

a scheme for organising concentrated propaganda in some of the selected villages in the State. As a result of this scheme, about 275 villages received special attention by the officers of the development departments and the Deputy Commissioners of Districts, and it was hoped that these selected villages would serve as models to other villages. Under this scheme, wherever public spirited non-officials cooperated with the local officers, the progress achieved in village improvement was striking.

3. With a view to achieve more speedy and substantial results in regard to improvement of village conditions and to raise the standard of the Village Panchayet administration generally, Government sanctioned a Five Year Plan of Rural Reconstruction under Government Order No.L.15-64/VP 23-42-7, dated 22nd October 1942. Under this scheme, it was sought to bring more closely together the Government and the private agencies with a view to secure an all-round development of villages within a definite period according to a well-considered programme. It was decided that the benefit of the scheme should not be limited to specially selected villages but be gradually extended, hobli by hobli, to all the Village Panchayets in the State. The scheme was accordingly put into operation in 81 hoblis comprising a total of 4,076 villages. A brief account of the work carried out by the Panchayets and other

other agencies concerned with the scheme is given in the Appendix to this order.

4. The scheme provides for the association of non-official initiative and direction by the appointment of honorary workers. The educated man is not as a rule willing to live in his village and competent local leadership is not always forthcoming. It has therefore been found necessary to develop an honorary rural service. More than 250 persons with the necessary aptitude and background have been selected and posted for this work after receiving special training in their varied duties. Under this system, there will be a trained worker resident in each group of villages responsible for advising the villagers, where to go for advice and how best to utilize their own skill and resources in improving their economic condition and the amenities of village life.

5. An Advisory Committee has been formed for each of the 81 hoblis in which the scheme is in operation. There is also a District Advisory Committee in each district. Prominent and active non-official workers have been selected as members of these Committees to assist the Deputy Commissioners and other local officers in drawing up programmes and reviewing the work done under the Special Scheme from time to time. At the top there is a Central Advisory Committee for Rural Reconstruction consisting of --

of important representatives of each district and the several Heads of Development departments presided over by the Minister in charge to review periodically the progress of work achieved and to co-ordinate the work of the State as a whole.

6. The Village Panchayet Act has been in force for 18 years now and various measures have been undertaken by the Government from time to time to develop the organisation of these Village Panchayets on sound lines. The great awakening in recent times of non-official interest in the health and welfare of the rural folk is a welcome indication and it is considered that a stage is now reached, when it is necessary further to expand the activities of Village Panchayets, so that they may serve not only as units of local administration but as agencies for promoting all manner of collective activity--social, moral and economic--centred on village life.

7. Government are accordingly pleased to issue the following directions.--

(1) The privilege of electing their chairmen will, as a rule, be conferred on all Village Panchayets. Nomination to the chairmanship of Village Panchayets will be made only in exceptional cases, where the Deputy Commissioners consider such a step necessary, having regard to local circumstances.

(2) Elected chairmen of Village Panchayets may select a duly qualified

qualified non-official as their own leader for each hobli or a group of villages. Candidates so appointed will be treated for all practical purposes as Gramasudharakas appointed under the five-year plan of Rural Reconstruction sanctioned by Government in 1942.

(3) Steps should be taken in all appropriate cases (a) to transfer the management, conservation and maintenance of village forests, whether reserved for fuel and fodder or for other purposes, to the existing Village Panchayets; (b) to empower the Village Panchayets to exercise all the powers and discharge all the functions of a panchayet under the Tank - Panchayet Act of 1911, provided that the entire area irrigated by a tank is within the ordinary jurisdiction of a Panchayet; (c) to entrust the Village Panchayets with the management of Minor Muzrai Institutions; and (d) to entrust the Village Panchayets with the supervision over village schools in their area. Government desire that the Village Panchayets should function as Parent-Teachers Associations and that their work in connection with the school should be of an advisory character.

NOTE 1. The delegation of the powers under 3 (a) to (d) above, will apply in the first instance to the Village - Panchayets in the selected hoblis under the Five Year Scheme.

NOTE 2. The Heads of Departments concerned will submit a report to Government very early in regard to the rules to be prescribed in this behalf for the guidance of Village Panchayets, on which these additional powers have been conferred, and also in regard to the modifications to the existing rules that would be necessary in view of the present order.

(4) The question of assigning judicial functions to the Village Panchayets under the Mysore Village Courts Act is being separately examined and orders will issue in due course.

8. In modification of the existing orders, Village Panchayets will exercise the following enhanced financial powers and the restrictions hitherto imposed on the withdrawal of funds from the treasury, will be relaxed:--

i) Village Panchayets may sanction estimates for original Public Works or repairs costing not more than Rs.300/-. Where the estimated cost of the work does not exceed Rs.200/-, the preparation of formal estimates may be dispensed with, by a resolution of the Village Panchayet recorded to that effect. In such cases, a certified copy of the resolution should be promptly sent to the Amildar of the Taluk.

ii) Village Panchayets may incur on their own initiative an expenditure not exceeding Rs.25/- in each case for the

the repairs of the village school buildings in their area.

iii) Without obtaining the previous orders or the consent of the Amildar, the Village Panchayets may incur expenditure on account of contingent charges on the scale prescribed under the rules.

iv) Where expenditure on specific items is supported by a formal resolution of the Village Panchayet, the Chairman or any other person duly authorised by him, may withdraw from the treasury the amount required for payment, without the countersignature of the Amildar to the payees' receipts and no challans for payment at the treasury need be initialled by the Village Panchayet clerk in future. The Comptroller is requested to issue revised instructions to the treasury officers in this behalf.

9. With a view to set up a suitable agency in each taluk for co-ordinating the work of the Village Panchayets and for carrying out special activities under the Rural Development Scheme, Government direct that Taluk Advisory Committees be constituted in each taluk, consisting of the local officers of Development Departments and active public workers representative of various interests. The existing Hobli Advisory Committees will get converted as Taluk Committees for each Taluk. It is the desire of the Government that these Committees should not confine their --

their attention to matters falling within the scope of Village Panchayet administration but should function generally as local economic councils for the general development of the Taluk.

The functions of the District Advisory Committees will be similarly extended and they will be expected to act as local agencies for consultation by the Economic Conference and the Heads of Development Departments for the respective Districts.

10. With the steadily growing volume of work under the Scheme of Rural Development and the need for securing adequate supervision and control over the several agencies at work in each District, Government consider that the Deputy Commissioners should each be given the assistance of a Gazetted Officer exclusively for this work. These officers, when they are appointed, will be designated as District Development Officers and they will be of the status of Assistant Commissioners. They will work under the direct control and guidance of the Deputy Commissioners. These officers will be Ex-officio Secretaries to the District Advisory Committees.

11. Government trust that the enhanced powers now conferred on the Village Panchayets and the withdrawal of restrictions hitherto imposed on them in regard to the utilisation of funds at their disposal, will help to improve the standard of Village Panchayet Administration and

and enable the Panchayets under the guidance of the Taluk and District Advisory Committees to extend their activities over a wider field of rural development.

ADDL. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

18/5/45

To

The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
The Comptroller to Government
The Heads of Departments.
The Secretaries to Government.
The Secretary, Economic Conference.
The Special Officer for Rural Development in Mysore.
The Secretary, C.A.C. &c.

APPENDIX

Progress under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme from 1st July 1943 to 31.12.1944.

i) In the villages selected under the Rural Reconstruction Drive Scheme, 153 wells have been completed and 730 are in various stages of progress, the cost of work done being Rs.99,470-12-0. Four hundred and seventy eight drainage works were completed and 243 were in various stages of progress. One hundred and fifty one village extensions were formed and 116 were under progress. Under the system of Monday labour for the improvement of villages, work of the value of Rs.1,04,418/- was done by the villagers themselves. Out of this a sum of Rs.14,256-10-3 was in adjustment of the Panchayet taxes due from the villagers.

ii) Four hundred and sixty two villages have employed sweepers, and in 2,524, the villagers have attended to the work of tidying up their villages. Thopes were formed in 231 villages and the number of trees planted in the selected villages was 98,643, of which 35,632 were fruit trees. Separate plots have been provided for manure pits in 462 villages and for kitchen gardens in 286 villages. For the recreation of the children, 252 play grounds were formed in the selected villages.

iii) One hundred and thirty three schools were started and 6,027 children admitted into these schools. Under

Under the adult literacy campaign, 617 classes were opened and 11,390 pupils attended them. One hundred and forty six reading rooms and 180 libraries have been opened. Ninety one scout troops and 212 cub packs have been formed with 676 scouts and 1,459 cubs. Ninety eight Agricultural Depots were opened for supplying seed grains, manure and agricultural implements to the agriculturists. The Department of Agriculture conducted a number of crop experiments and laid-out demonstration plots. Bee-keeping industry has been introduced in 95 villages and poultry farms have been started in 39 villages. Co-operative Credit Societies were started in 23 villages and stores branches were opened in 265 of the existing Societies.

iv) Considerable work has also been carried out for the improvement of the sanitation of the villages in the selected hoblis by the removal of manure heaps, closing unsightly pits, construction of soak pits, latrines etc.

v) Roads of a total length of 530 miles were formed in the interior, excluding 188 miles of approach roads.

vi) The Gramasudharakas delivered 3,080 lectures in the villages on sanitation and health. They did useful work by inducing the villagers to avail themselves of the services of the several Development Departments to improve their economic condition. They attended 3,914 Village Panchayet

Panchayet meetings and ~~were responsible for~~ took active interest in the collection of Village Panchayet taxes and arrears, in inducing well-to-do persons to make donations for various charitable purposes and in securing improved attendance in the rural schools.

ADDL. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

for

JDL 15/5

S. O.

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

G. O. No. L. 11486-520—V. P. 74-44-1, dated 28th May 1945.

Enhanced Powers on Village Panchayets.

Confers —— and makes arrangements for the effective supervision of work. relating to Rural Development.

READ—

Government Order No. 8508-8557—V. P. 44-35-2, dated the 9th May 1936, sanctioning a scheme for organising concentrated propaganda in selected villages in the State.

2. Government Order No. L. 1564—V. P. 23-42-7, dated the 22nd October 1942, issuing orders regarding Rural Reconstruction Drive in selected hoblis in the State.

3. Government Order No. D. 687-767—E. C. 2-43-1, dated the 30th July 1943, reviving the scheme of Economic Conference, etc.

4. Government Order No. L. 6100-34—V. P. 63-44-3, dated the 20th December 1944, directing that a District Advisory Committee, consisting of the District Officers of the Development Departments and influential non-official gentlemen representing several interests, be constituted in each district for reviewing the progress of work under the Rural Drive Scheme, and to eventually function as a District Organisation under the Economic Development Scheme.

5. Government Order No. L. 4333-70—V. P. 22-44-3, dated the 3rd November 1944, directing that the scheme of Rural Drive be introduced into a second set of hoblis in the State.

6. Government Orders introducing the Village Panchayet Act in Mysore with amendments thereon from time to time.

ORDER No. L. 11486-520—V. P. 74-44-1, DATED BANGALORE, THE 28TH MAY 1945.

Under the Mysore Village Panchayet Act, 1926, the Village Panchayets in the State have been given statutory recognition and provision has been made for the administration of local affairs by the villagers themselves. The obligatory duties of Panchayets relate to village communications, conservancy and sanitation. But at the same time, it has been the policy of Government to encourage these bodies to undertake optional measures calculated to promote the convenience and economic welfare of the village communities, subject to their jurisdiction. This policy has assumed greater importance in recent years, owing to the progressive increase in expenditure on departments concerned with rural welfare and on subsidies made directly to the Panchayets themselves for several purposes. Government have emphasised the need for an organised and sustained effort by all those departments, whose activities touch the lives and surroundings of the rural population. The Village Panchayets can materially contribute to the success of this effort by active and intelligent co-operation.

2. During the year 1936, Government sanctioned under Government Order No. L. 8508-8557—V. P. 44-35-2, dated 9th May 1936, a scheme for organising concentrated propaganda in some of the selected villages in the State. As a result of this scheme, about 275 villages received special attention by the officers of the Development Departments and the Deputy Commissioners of Districts, and it was hoped that these selected villages would serve as models to other villages. Under this scheme, wherever public spirited non-officials co-operated with the local officers, the progress achieved in village improvement was striking.

3. With a view to achieve more speedy and substantial results in regard to improvement of village conditions, and to raise the standard of the Village Panchayet administration generally, Government sanctioned a Five-year Plan of Rural Reconstruction under Government Order No. L. 15-64—V. P. 23-42-7, dated 22nd October 1942. Under this scheme, it was sought to bring the Government and the

No. L. 11486-520—V. P. 74-44-1, DATED 28TH MAY 1945.

APPENDIX.

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1. In the villages selected under the Rural Reconstruction Drive Scheme, 153 wells have been completed and 730 are in various stages of progress, the cost of work done being Rs. 99,470-12-0. Four hundred and seventy-eight drainage works were completed and 243 were in various stages of progress. One hundred and fifty-one village extensions were formed and 116 were under progress. Under the system of Monday labour for the improvement of villages, work of the value of Rs. 1,04,418 was done by the villagers themselves. Out of this a sum of Rs. 14,256-10-3 was in adjustment of the Panchayet taxes due from the villagers.

2. Four hundred and sixty-two villages have employed sweepers, and in 2,524, the villagers have attended to the work of tidying up their villages. Thopes were formed in 231 villages and the number of trees planted in the selected villages was 98,643, of which 35,632 were fruit trees. Separate plots have been provided for manure pits in 462 villages and for kitchen gardens in 263 villages. For the recreation of the children, 252 playgrounds were formed in the selected villages.

3. One hundred and thirty-three schools were started and 6,027 children admitted into these schools. Under the adult literacy campaign, 617 classes were opened and 11,390 pupils attended them. One hundred and forty-six reading rooms and 180 libraries have been opened. Ninety-one scout troops and 212 cub packs have been formed with 676 scouts and 1,459 cubs. Ninety-eight Agricultural Depots were opened for supplying seed grains, manure and agricultural implements to the agriculturists. The Department of Agriculture conducted a number of crop experiments and laid out demonstration plots. Bee-keeping industry has been introduced in 95 villages and poultry farms have been started in 23 villages and stores branches were opened in 265 of the existing societies.

4. Considerable work has also been carried out for the improvement of the sanitation of the villages in the selected hoblis by the removal of manure heaps, closing unsightly pits, construction of soak pits, latrines, etc.

5. Roads of a total length of 530 miles were formed in the interior, excluding 188 miles of approach roads.

6. The Gramasudharakas delivered 3,080 lectures in the villages on sanitation and health. They did useful work by inducing the villagers to avail themselves of the services of the several Development Departments to improve their economic condition. They attended 3,914 Village Panchayet meetings and took active interest in the collection of Village Panchayet taxes and arrears, in inducing well-to-do persons to make donations for various charitable purposes and in securing improved attendance in the rural schools.

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private agencies more closely together with a view to secure an all-round development of villages within a definite period according to a well-considered programme. It was decided that the benefit of the scheme should not be limited to specially selected villages but be gradually extended, hobli by hobli, to all the Village Panchayets in the State. The scheme was accordingly put into operation in 81 hoblis comprising a total of 4,076 villages. A brief account of the work carried out by the Panchayets and other agencies concerned with the scheme is given in the appendix to this order.

4. The scheme provides for the association of non-official initiative and direction by the appointment of honorary workers. The educated man is not, as a rule, willing to live in his village and competent local leadership is not always forthcoming. It has therefore been found necessary to develop an honorary rural service. More than 250 persons with the necessary aptitude and background have been selected and posted for their work after receiving special training in their varied duties. Under this system, there will be a trained worker resident in each group of villages responsible for advising the villagers, where to go for advice and how best to utilise their own skill and resources in improving their economic condition and the amenities of village life.

5. An Advisory Committee has been formed for each of the 81 hoblis in which the scheme is in operation. There is also a District Advisory Committee in each district. Prominent and active non-official workers have been selected as members of these Committees to assist the Deputy Commissioners and other local officers in drawing up programmes and reviewing the work done under the special scheme from time to time. At the top, there is a Central Advisory Committee for Rural Reconstruction consisting of important representatives of each district and the several Heads of Departments presided over by the Minister in charge, to review periodically the progress of work achieved and to co-ordinate the work of the State as a whole.

6. The Village Panchayet Act has been in force for 18 years now and various measures have been undertaken by the Government from time to time to develop the organisation of these Village Panchayets on sound lines. The great awakening in recent times of non-official interest in the health and welfare of the rural folk is a welcome indication and it is considered that a stage is now reached, when it is necessary further to expand the activities of Village Panchayets, so that they may serve not only as units of local administration, but as agencies for promoting all manner of collective activity—social, moral and economic—centered on village life.

7. Government are accordingly pleased to issue the following directions :—

(1) The privilege of electing their chairmen will, as a rule, be conferred on all Village Panchayets. Nomination to the Chairmanship of Village Panchayets will be made only in exceptional cases, where the Deputy Commissioners consider such a step necessary, having regard to local circumstances.

(2) Elected Chairmen of Village Panchayets may select a duly qualified non-official as their own leader for each hobli or a group of villages. Candidates so appointed will be treated for all practical purposes as Gramasudharakas appointed under the five-year plan of Rural Reconstruction sanctioned by Government in 1942.

(3) Steps should be taken in all appropriate cases (*a*) to transfer the management, conservation and maintenance of village forests whether reserved for fuel and fodder or for other purposes, to the existing Village Panchayets; (*b*) to empower the Village Panchayets to exercise all the powers and discharge all the functions of a panchayet under the Tank Panchayet Act of 1911, provided that the entire area irrigated by a tank is within the ordinary jurisdiction of a panchayet; (*c*) to entrust the Village Panchayets with the management of Minor Muzrai Institutions; and (*d*) to entrust the Village Panchayets with supervision over village schools in their area. Government desire that the Village Panchayets should function as Parent-Teachers Associations and that their work in connection with the school should be of an advisory character.

Note.—1. The delegation of the powers under 3 (*a*) to (*d*) above will apply in the first instance to the Village Panchayets in the selected hoblis under the five-year scheme.

Note.—2. The heads of departments concerned will submit a report to Government very early in regard to the rules to be prescribed in this behalf for the guidance of Village Panchayets on which these additional powers have been conferred and also in regard to the modifications to the existing rules that would be necessary in view of the present order.

No. L. 11486-520—V. P. 74-44-1, DATED 28TH MAY 1945.

(4) The question of assigning judicial functions to the Village Panchayets under the Mysore Village Courts Act is being separately examined and orders will issue in due course.

8. In modification of the existing orders, Village Panchayets will exercise the following enhanced financial powers and the restrictions hitherto imposed on the withdrawal of funds from the treasury will be relaxed :—

(i) Village Panchayets may sanction estimates for original public works or repairs costing not more than Rs. 300. Where the estimated cost of the work does not exceed Rs. 200, the preparation of formal estimates may be dispensed with by a resolution of the Village Panchayet recorded to that effect. In such cases, a certified copy of the resolution should be promptly sent to the Amildar of the taluk.

(ii) Village Panchayets may incur on their own initiative an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 25 in each case for the repairs of the village school buildings in their area.

(iii) Without obtaining the previous orders of the consent of the Amildar, the Village Panchayets may incur expenditure on account of contingent charges on the scale prescribed under the rules.

(iv) Where expenditure on specific items is supported by a formal resolution of the Village Panchayet, the Chairman or any other person duly authorised by him, may withdraw from the treasury the amount required for payment, without the countersignature of the Amildar to the payees' receipts, and no challans for payment at the treasury need be initialled by the Village Panchayet clerk in future. The Comptroller is requested to issue revised instructions to the treasury officers in this behalf.

9. With a view to set up a suitable agency in each taluk for co-ordinating the work of the Village Panchayets and for carrying out special activities under the Rural Development Scheme, Government direct that Taluk Advisory Committees be constituted in each taluk, consisting of the local officers of Development Departments and active public workers representative of various interests. The existing Hobli Advisory Committees will get converted as Taluk Committees for each taluk. It is the desire of the Government that these Committees should not confine their attention to matters falling within the scope of Village Panchayet administration, but should function generally as local economic councils for the general development of the taluk.

The functions of the District Advisory Committees will be similarly extended and they will be expected to act as local agencies for consultation by the Economic Conference and the Heads of Development Departments for the respective districts.

10. With the steadily growing volume of work under the Scheme of Rural Development and the need for securing adequate supervision and control over the several agencies at work in each district, Government consider that the Deputy Commissioners should each be given the assistance of a Gazetted Officer exclusively for this work. These officers, when they are appointed, will be designated as District Development Officers and they will be of the status of Assistant Commissioners. They will work under the direct control and guidance of the Deputy Commissioners. These officers will be *ex-officio* Secretaries to the District Advisory Committees.

11. Government trust that the enhanced powers now conferred on the Village Panchayets and the withdrawal of restrictions hitherto imposed on them in regard to the utilisation of funds at their disposal, will help to improve the standard of Village Panchayet Administration and enable the Panchayets under the guidance of the Taluk and District Advisory Committees to extend their activities over a wider field of Rural Development.

J. B. MALLARADHYA,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To—The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
The Comptroller to Government through the Financial Secretariat.
The Heads of Departments.
The Secretaries to Government.
The Secretary, Economic Conference.
The Special Officer for Rural Development in Mysore.
The Secretary, Central Advisory Committee for Rural Development in Mysore.

Exd.—T. N. S.